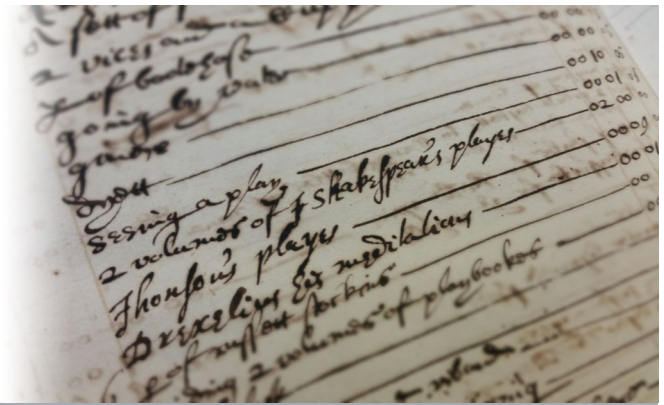




Issue Two, Spring 2016

Welcome to the second issue of the Archives@Kent newsletter. Here you'll find news about Heritage Services Team projects that have been taking place at the Kent History and Library Centre and beyond. April 2016 marks 400 years since the death of William Shakespeare and we have articles that explore and commemorate this occasion. The image above is of an entry taken from Sir Edward Dering's account book, and you can learn more about the significance of this entry in our Document In Detail feature on the following page. We also have an article and interview with members of the Robert Pocock Herbarium Project telling us about how project members are using Kent's archive collections to contribute to this fascinating study of Pocock and his many interests.

Rochester Faculties

Lara Joffe, Cataloguer

Over 230 boxes of uncatalogued Rochester Diocesan faculties for the late nineteenth, twentieth and early twenty-first century have been listed and are now available for viewing at the Kent History and Library Centre. Details of descriptions and dates can be seen on our online catalogue using series finding number DRb/A/f.

Faculties are required for alterations to church and churchyard, including exhumation and re-interment of remains, placing of memorials, and the sale or disposal of any items of historic or archaeological interest.

The faculties for Rochester Diocese provide a fascinating microcosm of life through the twentieth century, such as the change from oil lamps to gas and finally to electric lighting, and the dispute in Nettlestead where the owner of Nettlestead Place removed the fleur de lys from the pew ends when the rector was on holiday [DRb/A/f/1/262/2].

Many famous people and events are mentioned in memorial stained glass or tablets, such as Octavia Hill at Crockham Hill [DRb/A/f/1/389B/27], and John Ruskin at Herne Hill, St Paul [DRb/A/f/2/135/1]. The faculty for the exhumation of remains from Woolwich Cemetery [DRb/A/f/1/3/41/1] is a poignant reminder of the sinking of steamboat Princess Alice in 1878 which led to the loss of 650 lives. We also hold faculties for the exhumation of German and Netherland war dead for removal to Fields of Honour [DRb/A/f/1/410/48-49].

The faculties also reveal the wealth of works of art that exist in the churches of Rochester Diocese, such as the John Piper stained glass window at Lamberhurst [DRb/A/f/1/216/20] and the Marc Chagall windows at Tudeley [DRb/A/f/1/374/11].



Photographs of the Chagall stained glass at Tudeley
[DRb/A/f/1/374/11]

BBC Filming with Miriam Margolyes

Elizabeth Finn, Community Heritage Services Officer



Liz Finn with Miriam Margolyes at Dover Museum

Shakespeare's Cliff is supposedly so called because of the references to the cliffs in *King Lear*, but did you know that Shakespeare may actually have acted in Dover? I didn't until February when Sarah Stanley (Service Development Manager, Heritage) and I took two volumes of the Dover Chamberlains' accounts to Dover Museum so that they could be filmed with Miriam Margolyes as part of the BBC's *Shakespeare on Tour* series.

I was a bit apprehensive about filming with Miriam because I'd never met a real life celebrity before. I needn't have worried! She couldn't have been nicer and was a delight to work with. She's passionate about Shakespeare and was also genuinely interested in the Chamberlains' accounts.

Filming was easy. I started by reading

the three entries for payments to companies Shakespeare is known to have acted with. In 1597 the Corporation of Dover paid 13s 4d to the Lord Chamberlain's Players, and in 1606 and 1610 they paid £2 and 10s to the King's Players. Miriam then asked me questions about those entries and others in the accounts. We speculated about how much the actors were being paid, what they were being paid for and how the amounts they received compared with other things the Corporation spent their money on (in 1597 labourers were being paid 10d a day). Unfortunately, and frustratingly, we don't know which plays they performed. The time went really quickly and I think we both enjoyed ourselves. However, as with all historic research, answers often lead to many more questions, and there clearly is much more to find out about Shakespeare's relationship with the county. In future I'll see Shakespeare in a new light because he may actually have come to Kent.

The documents that were filmed are: Do/FCa3, folio 345r: payment of 13s 4d to Lord Chamberlain's men in 1597. Do/FCa4, folios 89r and 211r: payment of £2 to the King's Players, 1606; payment of 10s as a gratuity, to the King's Players, 1610. The film of Miriam Margolyes in Dover, including an extract featuring the Chamberlains' accounts, is available at: <http://goo.gl/bB7Ga1>

Document in Detail: Sir Edward Dering's Account Book [U350/E4]

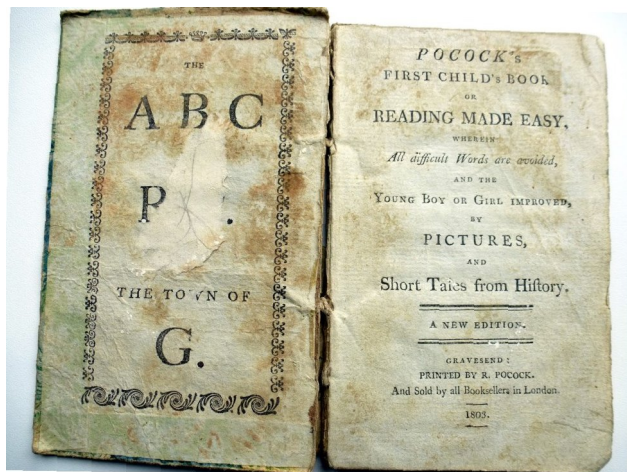
Mark Bateson, Heritage Services Manager

Like some archivists, I'm fonder of words than numbers. Having hated maths as a schoolboy, I carried my prejudices into adult life. Poor, misguided soul! I now see how accounts can shed the brightest light on the way individuals led their lives and organisations conducted business – just the sorts of things our users like to discover, as it happens. Take Sir Edward Dering's account book, for example. Dering held a string of official positions in Kent (e.g. M.P. for Kent in the Long Parliament of 1642-4). Yet he still found the time to amass a monumentally large library of books and archives at his house, Surrenden Dering, and pursued antiquarian studies avidly. In this volume Dering carefully documents his daily spending on the essential and non-essential alike, including food and drink, clothes (oh, so many clothes!), travel, almsgiving, and of course, books. Here is the mundane - we learn he lost 6d at 'cardes' on 2 January 1619 - alongside the stellar: on 5 December 1623 Dering spent £2 on the First Folio of Shakespeare's plays, from a London bookseller. In a radio programme, recorded at the KHLIC for broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on 24 April, it will be revealed that this is the earliest recorded purchase of a First Folio.

An image of this entry in Dering's account book can be seen on the first page of this newsletter.

Pocock Herbarium Project

Rob Illingworth, Community Heritage Services Officer



Pocock's First Child's Book from the local history collection at Gravesend Library

The Victorian biography of Robert Pocock (1760–1830), is subtitled 'The Gravesend Historian, Naturalist, Anti-quarian, Botanist, and Printer'. This gives an idea of Pocock's remarkable range of interests and enterprises, which also included the founding of the first circulating library in Gravesend and the production of *Pocock's first child's book or reading made easy*, one of the earliest books published to help children learn to read. Unfortunately after 1811 Pocock's main Gravesend printing business began to decline and eventually he was declared bankrupt. In reduced circumstances he moved away from Gravesend to live with his son in Dartford. When he died in October 1830 he was buried in an unmarked grave in the churchyard of St Michael's Church, Wilmington.

Ever since his death historians and heritage enthusiasts have recognised Robert Pocock's achievements and worked to secure his reputation. In the preface to his 1844 book *The History and antiquities of Dartford with topographical notices of the neighbourhood*, the Dartford-based printer, stationer, bookseller, author and local historian, John Dunkin, made it plain that he was taking on the mantle of Pocock's work:

The late Mr Robert Pocock...circulated Proposals for a History of Dartford which his death and the dispersion, if not destruction, of his Collections, prevented ever being fulfilled. In consequence of several members of the literary world having expressed considerable regret that the intended Work was never published, the present writer was induced to attempt to supply the hiatus.

In fact, while dispersed, not all of Pocock's collections were destroyed. George Matthews Arnold, solicitor, Mayor of Gravesend and wealthy philanthropist acquired some of his books, journals, and his botanical herbarium. Another author and local historian, Arnold may have made the strongest contribution of all to restoring the status of Robert Pocock. Five years after publishing his 1883 biography of Pocock, he erected a memorial plaque for 'the Historian of Gravesend' which can still be seen on 48/49 High Street, Gravesend, once Robert Pocock's house. In our own time, local historians like Tony Larkin and Christoph Bull have continued this work to ensure that Pocock is memorialised in the civic landscapes of Gravesend and Wilmington.

The team involved in the Robert Pocock Herbarium Project now take the exciting approach of tracking down and investigating Pocock's archive collections, most notably Pocock Herbarium specimens which are held in British and Irish Herbarium at the Natural History Museum. Further details about the Heritage Lottery funded project can be found at <http://pocockherbarium.blogspot.co.uk/>.

Project members Malcolm and Sally Jennings have been working on the significant Robert Pocock material held at Dartford Library, Gravesend Library, and the Kent History and Library Centre, and I have assisted them to identify and access items of interest. At Dartford Library, when selecting local history collection items that would benefit from specialist collection care treatment, I came across an 1830s volume of miscellaneous *Dartfordiana* pamphlets compiled by John Dunkin. An item in the middle of the volume turned out to be the catalogue for a two-day auction sale of Pocock's 'Valuable Museum' collection on 4 and 5 May 1825. The catalogue headlines the many 'shells, minerals, fossils, beautiful birds & foreign insects' in the Museum collection. Yet, because Pocock was a dealer in 'natural and other curiosities, collected from different parts of the world', the collection is diverse and, in some instances, such as 'One Turkish slipper and Chinese lady's shoe', bizarre! I am very pleased that this discovery has opened up a wide range of new research possibilities for the volunteers working on this excellent community project.

Read on to learn more about the project.

Interview with Malcolm and Sally Jennings of the Pocock Project

Macaulay Bristow, Conservator

What prompted the creation of the project?

We are local naturalists – interested in local natural history, such as insects, birds and plants etc. And that is what Robert Pocock did in the early nineteenth century. I read Pocock's journal in the 1980s and databased all of his natural history sightings. I did some work on the birds and insects but did not follow up the plants even though I knew that his plant collection was in the Herbarium at the Natural History Museum in London. In 2011 the time seemed right to find out more about this plant collection. [Citizen science](#) was becoming popular, as was digitisation of museum collections. Dr Mark Spencer, Curator of the British and Irish Herbarium, saw the possibilities and with an HLF grant we started. We could perhaps have started the project at any time but I think the availability of technology and ideas of making collections and other resources accessible made it the right time: accessible in terms of allowing 'non experts' access to the original sources (the specimens) and accessible in terms of making the results available to the public via websites and social media.



Malcolm and Sally Jennings in the KHL Search Room

You have been working with documents relating to Pocock in Kent at Dartford Library, Gravesend Library, and the Kent History and Library Centre. Which document do you think is the most significant or important that you have found so far?

The most significant document is the Catalogue of Pocock's Museum that was found by Rob [Illingworth] in Dartford. In terms of Pocock's Herbarium it confirmed that he did not sell his plant collection at auction in 1825. We believe that this part of his work was too precious to him – it was *his* herbarium. But the real importance of the Catalogue is that it opens up a completely new way to find out more about Robert Pocock and his activities. We used the herbarium plants with their labels as the core primary source of data about Pocock as a botanist; we used other sources to supplement this and to create context and to add cultural value to the herbarium. The catalogue is important as a new core primary source that could be used in the same way as the herbarium – as a new project almost. All the items in the catalogue are real; they have history and provenance and may still exist in collections somewhere.

Pocock appears to have been a man with many serious interests. [Your project has revealed](#) that he was an experienced viticulturist, and grew grape vines in his garden in Gravesend. What kinds of documents have you found that mention these varied interests?

Pocock's journal is the most important document. Manuscripts in Gravesend library are fairly well known. A major find for us was the Mark Noble Papers in the Bodleian Library Oxford. These contain letters from Pocock to Rev. Mark Noble. I don't think these have ever been seen before (the collection data have only recently been uploaded to the internet). One of these letters is incredibly personal as he writes about his financial and health problems. Sadly these are the only manuscripts that I could not put on the website.

Pocock's Herbarium has been 'lost' for the last 200 years. How do you hope the collections will be used in the future now that they have been rediscovered?

With the present rapid changes in biodiversity it is now recognised that knowledge of the past distribution and population of plants and animals is important. Old documents and collections are a mine of data that can inform and provide context for modern biodiversity studies. Studying change requires knowledge of the past, and our project was designed to extract the biodiversity data in his notes and herbarium. We have done this and we know that some of this data has already been used in this way. Pocock's work was lost; we now hope it will be slowly incorporated into modern studies. However what we had not fully realised at the start of the project is how much the plant collection could tell us about Pocock and his times. This has been really interesting. We have been able to recreate much of Pocock's work and life. Most importantly, we have tried to provide access to original sources (via website and CD) so that others can take this forward. We are not trying to complete a history of Robert Pocock but provide the resources for others. We hope that Robert Pocock will no longer be 'lost' but very accessible.



Photographs in their new packaging

KHLC holds over 10,000 photographs depicting areas and subjects of interest from across Kent. With a wide variety of ages, quality and condition we have made it our project for 2016 to re-house, assess and record the entirety of the collection.

Until now, the images have been stored in paper hanging sleeves within upright, metal filing cabinets. Although drawer storage can be space saving, documents can become easily damaged with the opening and closing of drawers.

To counteract this we are taking the photographs out and placing them in archive safe, custom made polyester sleeves. These are then placed into larger, transparent archive standard pockets within conservation grade boxes. KHLC is conscious of its impact on the environment so all prior housing materials are recycled where possible.

Currently, the team are working on creating a new running numbering system for the images to create continuity and ease of searching across the collection. When the project has come to an end we hope

to have improved the physical storage conditions, made digital copies accessible to the public, and created a new numbering system that can be accessed online. Our aim is to get these fascinating images out to our archive users and improve ease of access.

Reading Kent's Past: upcoming History Talks at the KHLC (all at 6.30pm)

Lynsey Blandford - 19 May

Shakespeare's women: are they relevant today?

Lynsey highlights some familiar Shakespearean female characters by examining the literature as well as modern representations of the plays in film and on stage. She also aims to contextualise the original plays by considering examples of real early modern women who may have acted as inspiration and some influential literature written at the time.

Hugh Gault and Jane Gallagher - 9 June

Kent and Kingsley Wood (1924 - 1943)

Kingsley Wood was MP for Woolwich West from 1918 to his death as Chancellor of the Exchequer in September 1943. He left no personal papers but in 1972 thirty-three volumes of press cuttings were donated to the University of Kent. A one-nation Tory, he worked alongside Churchill, Chamberlain, Baldwin and Lloyd George, amongst many others.

Full details of 2016's talks are now available as a hard-copy leaflet and on our [Facebook](#) page. Tickets cost £5 and can be booked by emailing libraries@kent.gov.uk or calling 03000 414404.

Tours of the Archives at the KHLC

Tours of the archives at the KHLC take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm. Tours consist of a short introduction to the Community History area and Search Room, the Reprographics Studio, the Strong Room, and the Conservation Studio. There will also be a chance to meet members of the Heritage Services Team. Each tour lasts one hour. Unfortunately, each tour will be limited to 10 people on a first come basis. To book a place on a tour, please email archives@kent.gov.uk or telephone 03000 420673.

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If you have any comments regarding this newsletter please contact:

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